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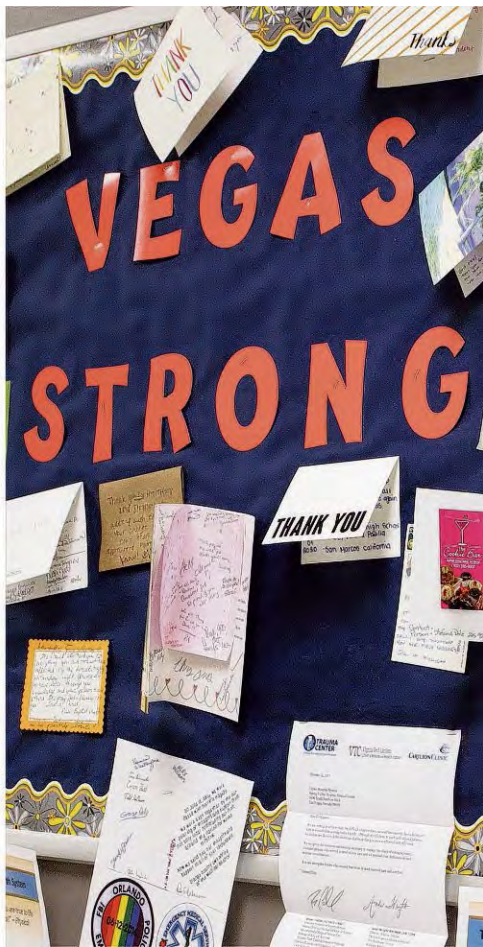
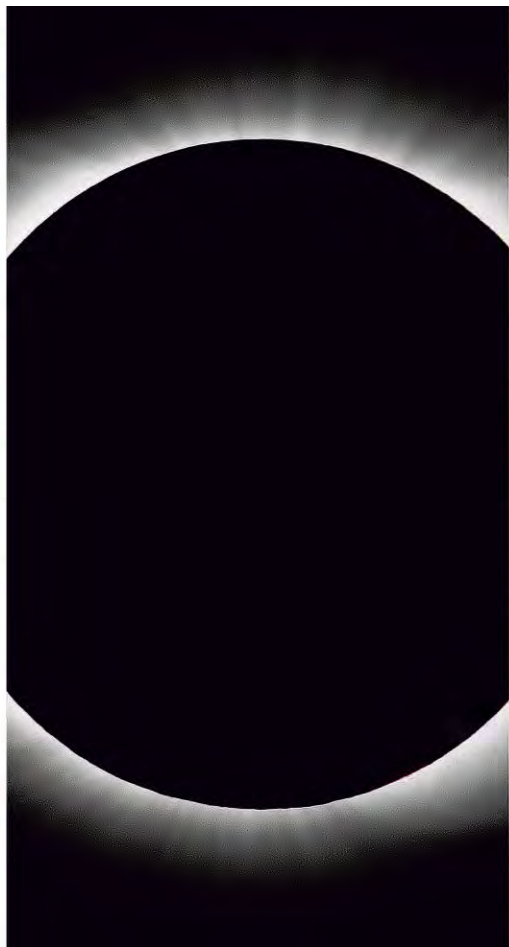


ILLUSTRATION BY NEIL NAKAHODO The Star

Looking back at the year that was, we took the good with the bad: a new president took office, a cross-county solar eclipse mesmerized millions and a mass shooting set a new record for fatalities. But for most of us, it was the personal stories that made 2017 memorable.

From Trump to the solar eclipse: 2017 saw us divided, hurt and, yes, happy

BY RICK MONTGOMERY
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Thinking back, this almost seems like fake news: For one day in 2017, many Americans were more united than they’ve been in a long while.

And Kansas City was in the middle of it, remember? “An Apollo moment,” said University of Missouri astrophysicist Angela Speck, recalling the total solar eclipse.

Starting in Oregon and ending in South Carolina — two states

on opposite political sides — more than 200 million spectators on Aug. 21 delighted in the celestial show streaking over the nation.

The eclipse briefly interrupted a debate about Confederate monuments, among many divisive issues that seemed to flare every few days in 2017. In fact, an 83-year-old memorial on Ward Parkway honoring the “Loyal Women of the Old South” was disassembled by its caretakers and carted away on the week of the eclipse.

It’s easy to recall all that

cleaved Americans in President Donald Trump’s first year in office: immigration, transgender rights, allegations of Russia meddling in last year’s election, mass shootings, sexual misconduct, a tax overhaul and practically everything Trump tweeted.

But for many the memories most lasting are apt to be what occurred in our own lives.

Like watching a total eclipse with the kids.

“Not since the moon landings have we had anything to get children super excited about

science,” Speck said. “I’m hoping that day will inspire some kids to pursue scientific fields.”

OK. It was only one day. As for the 364 others, The Star earlier this month tapped social media to pose the question: “What will you most remember about 2017?”

Dominating the responses were comments for or against Trump (as well as news coverage of him: “Dishonest media,” two wrote). Still, many Facebook and Twitter users weary of all that

SEE 2017, 2A

Trump blasts China over N. Korea

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON AND CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump attacked China on Thursday following reports that Chinese ships transferred oil to North Korean vessels at sea in violation of U.N. sanctions over the North’s nuclear weapons program.

Trump said on Twitter that China had been “Caught RED HANDED,” adding he was “very disappointed that China is allowing oil to go into North Korea.”

“There will never be a friendly solution to the North Korea problem if this continues to happen!” the president said, without citing the source of his information.

China accounts for the vast majority of North Korea’s external trade and oil supplies. Just two weeks ago, Trump credited China for its help in the U.S.-led pressure campaign against Pyongyang, including support for three U.N. Security Council resolutions this year — the latest last week — over the North’s nuclear and missile tests.

However, on Tuesday the South Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo cited unidentified

SEE CHINA, 2A

What GOP primary? Josh Hawley focusing U.S. Senate bid ‘100 percent’ on McCaskill

BY BRYAN LOWRY
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Missouri Republicans won’t select a nominee for U.S. Senate until August, but for the past few months many GOP leaders, including President Donald Trump, have been treating the primary results as a foregone conclusion.

And while Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley stops short of calling himself the presumptive nominee, he doesn’t appear too worried about the three other Republican candidates in the race.

“My focus is 100 percent on Sen. (Claire) McCaskill and I think it’s absolutely vital she be replaced,” Hawley said when asked to assess the rest of the GOP field during an interview with The Star.

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Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley

Throughout the conversation, Hawley repeatedly pivoted back to McCaskill, the Democratic incumbent, when asked to lay out his policy positions or weigh in on intraparty controversies.

Hawley spoke to The Star the same day Congress approved a \$1.5 trillion tax cut, which

McCaskill opposed. He pointed to the doubling of the standard deduction and expansion of the child tax credit as reasons to support the bill, which also slashes tax rates for businesses.

“It’s a great start. It’s a great start,” he said when asked about the bill’s contents. “The fact that Claire McCaskill won’t vote for this ... I think it just shows that she has become a rigidly partisan D.C. creature.”

McCaskill’s campaign pushed back on Hawley’s criticism in a statement and attacked the attorney general for running for a higher office after only one year in his current position.

“After 50 public town halls this year, Missourians know where Claire McCaskill stands on the issues. More importantly, she has listened to their frustrations, hopes, and priorities,” said Meira Bernstein, a state Democratic spokeswoman authorized to speak for McCaskill’s campaign.

“What do Missourians know about Josh Hawley? And when will Hawley begin to listen to Missourians instead of Mitch McConnell’s political operatives? Hawley hasn’t held a single pub-

SEE HAWLEY, 2A



LOCAL

10 THINGS TO WATCH IN 2018

Here’s a list of metro projects we’re watching, plus other plans that will either show progress or cause controversy. 4A

LOCAL

BAD WEATHER FOR NEW YEAR’S EVE

Experts predict wind chill factors of 15 to 30 degrees below zero on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s morning. 4A



BUSINESS

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